

# PugetSoundPartnership

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## SCIENCE PANEL CONFERENCE CALL MEETING SUMMARY

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### **Science Panel Members on Call:**

Joel Baker  
Robert “Bob” Johnston  
Jan Newton  
Guy Gelfenbaum  
Frank Shipley  
John Stark  
Katharine “Trina” Wellman  
Usha Varanasi

### **Staff on Call:**

Scott Redman  
Tammy Owings  
Mary Ruckelshaus

### **Others on Call:**

Tom Hom

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The call opened at 11:05 a.m. by Science Panel Chair Joel Baker.

During this call the Science Panel discussed:

- Strategic Science Plan Status Check
- March 10-11, 2009, Meeting Preparation

### **Strategic Science Plan Status Check:**

The Panel spent the first portion of the call discussing the Strategic Science Plan and deadline for getting information to Scott Redman for revisions. The original deadline for providing Scott with revised section write-ups was Friday, March 6, but due to Panel member schedules the deadline was moved to get final changes to Scott by the end of day Sunday, March 8. Scott will then redraft the document Monday morning, March 9, and will provide draft to Panel and post the draft before leaving the office that afternoon. Tammy Owings will bring hard copies to the March 10 & 11, 2009, Science Panel meeting.

The Panel has been experimenting using Google Docs as a way to track changes to the document. This application has been troublesome for Trina Wellman, so she will send her revisions to Scott in a Word document; he will make the changes in Google Docs. Other Panel members can also use this process if they would like.

The Panel discussed the process for making revisions to other sections in the document. It was decided that the section leads need to coordinate all the changes in their section and to bring any discrepancies to the meeting for Panel discussion and direction.

Scott reviewed the section assignments.

**March 10 & 11, 2009 Science Panel Meeting Preparation:**

Joel reviewed the agenda for the March 10 and 11 meeting.

The Panel discussed the possibility of the Monitoring Consortium providing a presentation at this meeting but, after discussion, it doesn't look like this is necessary. A couple people from the Consortium may attend the March Science Panel meeting to provide comment if necessary. Scott is in communication with the Consortium's facilitator, Jim Reid. Jim is drafting options to bring to the Leadership Council. The Panel agreed that this needs to be one of the crosscutting work group discussions. The options may be presented as an agenda item at the April 23 Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting for its input before presenting at the May Leadership Council meeting. The Science Panel may also want to include additional discussion of this issue during the May 7 & 8 meeting.

Joel is waiting to hear from David Dicks on whether he and/or the new Deputy Director Lynda Ransley will be able to attend the March Science Panel meeting. Tammy Owings is following up on this request.

The Panel was hoping to receive a budget update during this call. Scott reported that Jim Cahill informed him that there isn't a budget update for today's call. But Jim will provide update information to whomever provides the agency update at the March meeting. Jim is working with Mary Mahaffy on the Federal EPA funds and finalizing that work.

The Panel discussed the stimulus packet and asked how that would work – still not sure since money didn't come directly to Washington or the Puget Sound but will go through the federal agencies. Guy Gelfenbaum brought up the fact that the FFY09 money should be coming through soon and we need to have a process in place to make sure science is included. Joel discussed how the Science Panel may want to come out with a declaration that monitoring needs to be included in all restoration projects to be able to endorse the projects – will discuss this issue at the March meeting. The BSWP needs to be followed and everyone needs to be reminded that it is available.

Usha Varanasi reminded the Panel, that when writing up the BSWP, the Panel included a statement about the monitoring underpinning and that this should be a guiding principle for the Panel and the Partnership.

Joel suggested adding a preamble to the Strategic Science Plan that states this need. He asked Usha to draft this statement for inclusion in the draft Plan.

Scott noted the need to hear from grant programs (i.e. SRFB or PSAR) on how they handle monitoring requirements. This will be a topic on the May meeting agenda along with an update on the monitoring for the Nisqually project. Frank Shipley and Guy will assist Scott in planning this agenda item. The Panel will also include a discussion on development of a proclamation at the May meeting.

Joel reported that he and Mary Ruckelshaus met with Gordon Orians and he will discuss the role of the Washington Academy of Sciences, and how it fits with the Science Panel's work, at the March meeting. Dr. Orians is also interested in the indicators work and may be interested, as an individual, in joining this effort. Mary discussed the possibility of having the Academy be included in the Science Panel's peer review process.

Call adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

The next conference call is scheduled for July 1, 2009, 11:00 a.m.